

The Trumpet

A monthly publication of the people of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Cartersville, GA.

**June 2011
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A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MARY



It's kind of silly to think about it but I can't help it. As I write this article for the June Trumpet I am flying between Reno and Minneapolis. It seems to be a good perspective from which to consider Ascension Day. While it is one of those Holy Feast Days of the church, I must say I have not been at a church that gave it much attention before. If I happened to be with the Bishop, he would ask how we were celebrating the holy day. When he learned there were no plans, he would suggest that the holy day ought not to be overlooked by worshipping communities. But such is not the case at the Church of the Ascension. Here it is one of those holy events in the life of Christ for which our church is named...an eponymous event...the Ascension of Christ.

So as the plane soars into the sky I also know that it will descend as well. In the tradition of Elijah, however, Jesus ascended into heaven...where he sits upon the right hand of God. After he was raised from the dead he was drawn up into the heavens...leaving earth in a supernatural way to dwell with God the Creator...until Christ comes again. In the meantime the Holy Spirit was sent to give us all that we need to carry on the work that Christ began. That holy event, Pentecost, will be remembered and celebrated in a couple more weeks. And the week after Pentecost is Trinity...a day we embrace the understanding of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Holy Spirit.

So what does flying in an air plane have to do with all this? I'm not really sure...but what I do know is that after miles and miles of clear flying, of being able to see the snow capped mountains and changing vegetation and rivers and lakes beneath me, suddenly there was complete cloud cover. It was very thick...no way to see through it. Of course, there were people on the other side of the clouds who could see what I could not, however they could not see beyond the clouds either. And I am reminded that God's vision is ever clear while human vision is ever cloudy. We see, but it is limited because we are human. And what we do see varies with our God-given gifts. So while we will never see as God sees, we come a little closer when we share our perspectives with one another. What God has done for humanity was to call us into community. Together, living peacefully in community, we can see what we cannot see individually. It is together that our vision begins to approach God's vision. We call it church!

So while we will never see as God sees, we come a little closer when we share our perspectives with one another.

Long before Jesus descended to earth and was born of the Virgin Mary, God called the Hebrew people into covenant...to love one another and to worship God...to be God's people on earth. You have heard all about human resistance to live peacefully together and the failure to see God's vision for the world. So the Son of God came into the world to reveal God from the earthly human perspective. Jesus then called a group of disciples into community. They followed him and he began to teach him his ways...God's ways. Following his ascension, the Holy Spirit descended and provided all that the disciples needed to carry on the work Jesus began. It seems that Jesus had to ascend in order for the Holy Spirit to descend. We do not know the mind of God, but we do know that we have been called into community...to worship, to pray, to forgive, to love, AND to listen...to the Spirit and to one another. We call it church!...and it enables us to see what God longs for us to see...

June is a wonderful month to recall and strive for God's vision for humanity. We will celebrate the community of the Church of the Ascension with a celebratory service on Ascension Eve (Wednesday June 1st at 6:30). We will wrap up the 50 days of Easter with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We will also wonder at the mighty power of the triune God on Trinity Sunday. Together, as Church, we will begin to move toward God's vision for our community. It won't matter how high we fly or how clear the sky, together, with God's help, we will be able to see God's vision for us. And to everyone I say, "Come and See!"

Mother Mary Erickson

DAN BAKER, RETIRED SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ascension,

Dan Baker has given four years to excellent leadership among us. I personally don't know how to thank him enough! I am hoping that all together we might be able to express the level of gratitude we feel for his leadership during a time of many changes. Dan's generosity of time to serve these 'extra' five months, while I transitioned to being your rector, was of considerable help to me. His presence on Sunday mornings and his availability during the week was exceedingly supportive to me.



photo by Bill Monk

You have no doubt noted Dan's devotion to his Lord and to the Body of Christ, The Church. It is evident in most every conversation. We have all been blessed by his relationship to God and what God has done through him for this parish.

Please join me and give thanks for Dan and to Dan for all he has done. Wife, Jamie, is also worthy of our gratitude for all the time she has shared him with the parish. When you see them, let them know of your appreciation. And let me reassure you, Dan and Jamie are involved in many important ministries here. Their presence and leadership among us will continue.

God, thank you for Dan! Thank you, Dan for all you have done!

Mother Mary Erickson

PS Please continue to hold the Bakers in your prayers for the sick as well. Dan is recovering from a heart attack. He has had two stents placed in his heart arteries and one more is planned.

JOHN YOUD, SENIOR WARDEN

As Dan departs from this role, I invite you to extend a welcome to your new Senior Warden, John Youd. John is in his third year of serving on vestry and has agreed to be our Senior Warden until the end of this year. Thank you, John.



Let me tell you a little bit about John: He was born in Detroit Michigan and went to Michigan State University. He joined the family insurance agency in 1965 after being discharged from the U.S. Army. Upon his father's retirement he became president of the agency. John was active in his community including being president of the local Kiwanis, Chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors, and Commodore of the Wyandotte Yacht Club. He sold the insurance agency in 2001 and became Risk Manager for the City of Taylor in Michigan. In 2006 Carol, his wife, and John retired to Georgia to be closer to their older daughter and her family. Their younger daughter and her children have also recently moved to Georgia.

John was baptized in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wyandotte Michigan. He was also confirmed there and served as an acolyte. While he had a brief encounter with Christian Science in college, he returned to the Episcopal faith shortly afterward. John and Carol were married in The Greenfield Village Martha Mary Chapel in an Episcopal ceremony performed by the priest from Mariner's Church in Detroit which is the oldest standing church in Detroit.

John and Carol attended a few Episcopal churches during earlier times of raising a family in Michigan. Now they claim to have found "a wonderful home at The Church of the Ascension." John also said that he is particularly fond of this church as it reminds me of the church where he grew up. John has felt welcomed here and values the warmth and love of its members, the devotion to outreach, and to the community.

John's hope for the Episcopal Church at large is to see more stability and harmony within the church. As far as our own part of the Body of Christ, here on the corner of Bartow and Cherokee, John hopes for steady growth and that building plans will come to fruition.

Now some of you have already mentioned to me that I asked John to be Senior Warden because he is a Michigander like me. Let me tell you, John is a Spartan fan from Michigan State and he likes Ohio State (the Buckeyes) as well. If I were not a Christian, dedicated to praying for and loving my enemies, I would never have considered him. We fans of Michigan Wolverines are eager to distance ourselves, normally, from such ridiculous loyalties. But I am devoted to serving with people of diverse gifts and wide range of interests, so please join me in welcoming your new Senior Warden. Welcome, John.

Mother Mary Erickson

ASCENSION HAD TWO TEACHERS OF THE YEAR!

Becky Rhodes was named Teacher of the Year for Cartersville Elementary School and then later for the Cartersville City School System. Rhodes, who is in her 28th year of teaching and her 16th at CES, said she became interested in education and children at a young age after working as a babysitter. She is currently a Title I teacher. "I enjoyed teaching children to do things, and it just seemed a natural progression for me when it came time to choose a profession I wanted to follow to go into teaching," Rhodes said. Rhodes received \$1,200 to be used toward any academic conference in the upcoming school year. Becky will now compete against teachers from systems across the state for Teacher of the Year for the State of Georgia.



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Rick McKee was recognized as the 2011 Teacher of The Year by the faculty and staff at Acworth Intermediate School in Cobb County. Rick is the music specialist at Acworth and has taught there since the fall of 2005. He also serves as Adjunct Instructor of Music Education at Kennesaw State University. Rick has previously taught in the Whitfield County School System, The Shawnee (Oklahoma) School District, and Garden Lakes Elementary in Floyd County. He previously held positions as Director of Handbells and Adjunct Instructor of Music Education at Shorter College. Rick holds a Bachelors of Music Education degree in voice from Shorter College; and a Master's degree in musical composition and EdS. in music education from The University of Georgia.



Congratulations to both of these wonderful and committed educators. We are all very proud of you.

ASCENSION'S MEAL MINISTRY ON THE ROLL!

Ascension currently has a wonderful group of volunteers who provide meals to church members who request them. This year we have become aware of on-line calendars that schedule the requested meals, if several are needed. In the future look for church wide notifications regarding created meal calendars. Information on how to access these calendars will be included in the notification.

Meal Ministry



If you would like more information about the Meal Ministry, the on-line calendars, or are in need of a meal or meals, please contact Maggie Martin, Meal Ministry Coordinator, at 770.505.3149 or moograt@yahoo.com.

I AM FUND UPDATE

The I AM Fund was started in 2004 as a vision to upgrade, expand and renovate our aging Church building. The vision includes a larger parish hall and kitchen, new offices for the Rector and Parish Administrator, new choir room, Christian Ed classrooms, and space for the Outreach ministry. To date, approximately \$34,000 in I AM funds have been spent to pay-off an existing church mortgage (\$23,000) and to pay an architect for preliminary drawings and consultations (\$11,000). The Steering Committee will be reviewing those plans to ensure they still meet the needs of our Parish.



The I AM Fund continues to grow despite the operating challenges of the past several years, which include the transitioning between Rectors and the economic recession. The fund balance as of 4/31/11 is \$190,756. Donations to the I AM Fund should be over and above your normal giving. The goals that must be met prior to any construction or long-term debt are:

Strengthen operating budget to the point that we can afford a mortgage payment.

Exceed 100 pledges.

Giving to the I AM Fund is long-term way to ensure the future of our Parish in this community. Thanks to those who have given in the past, thanks to those who continue to give, and thanks to those who will give in the future. If you would like more information about the I AM Fund, please contact me.

Faithfully,

Joe White

Interim Chair

PLEDGE COMMITMENTS DURING THE SUMMER

We certainly hope and pray that you and your family have a safe and restful vacation and get some much needed rest over the summer, but please do not take a vacation from your commitments to the church. Let Susan McLeod know of planned absences so she can schedule around those as far as your participation as a worship leader. Please remember that the financial obligations of the church do not take a vacation and meeting those obligations requires that pledges be as current as possible. Thank you for all that you contribute and know that we appreciate your gifts.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW MINISTRY – TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Over the last several months we have had requests from people needing a ride to our Church services. If this is something you would be able to help with please call the Church office. If you would like to help coordinate drivers for this ministry, please email – elwalpole44@bellsouth.net or call Earline Walpole @ 770-607-3531.



SPREAD THE WORD!

Good things are happening at Ascension! Email Claudia White at claudia@bookwriterscmc.com with any parish news, events and happenings for coverage in the Daily Tribune and help create an Episcopal presence in our community. The deadline is each Monday for the following Thursday's Living Section – your news will be needed the week prior in order to give Claudia time to create the articles.



Each summer, The Daily Tribune puts out a special Progress issue. This article profiles Ascension by telling who we are, giving the year in review and sharing our dreams for the future. Let me know your ideas and if you have any pictures – please share.

We also try to keep up with member activities and community news via the Parish Hall bulletin board. If you see your face in print – don't be modest. Post it!

Thank you all for your help and cooperation.
~Claudia White

YOUNG CHORISTERS END THE CHOIR YEAR



The Young Choristers of Ascension celebrated the end of their choir year with a Family Choir Day on Wednesday, May 11th. Family members gathered in the nave of the church as the choir processed to "Laudate Dominum". The choir demonstrated warm-ups, rhythm activities, and singing skill development exercises along with singing two anthems. We ended our celebration with everyone singing "When In Our Music God Is Glorified", followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Choir Service certificates were awarded to all choristers for a dedicated year of service in worship leadership. Special recognition was given to Senior Choristers Sophia Evans, Bailey Haigler, and Mattie Rountree for their excellent leadership. Four additional choristers will graduate to senior chorister status next choir season. These are: Elsa Evans, Alex Garrison, Charlotte McGinnis, and Skyler Robson. Other choristers honored were: Andy Brunt, Emily Butterworth, Journey Demaray, Michael Hall, Natalie Horah, Jessica Kubat, Riley Payne, Sebastian Robson, and Camila Rountree. Congratulations to all of our wonderful choristers!

We welcome any new singers to The Young Choristers who are at least 7 years of age. Please contact Angee McKee or George Chesnut if you know of someone who would like to be a part of this ministry.

ACH WELCOMES ANDREW KAHR'S ON JUNE 10TH

Ascension Coffee House is excited to welcome Andrew Kahrs to the stage on June 10th. Andrew (also known as Andy Erickson) may be familiar to some of you since he is the son of Mary and Steve Erickson.



Andy attends the University of Georgia and is majoring in African Studies. His Facebook page states that his musical style was influenced by many diverse artists. Andy describes himself as an R&B/Soul artist, but after hearing his music, you'll agree he has developed his own unique style. He says, "Well, you could say my music picks and chooses from blues, gospel, jazz, and folk...but whose doesn't? So let's say it's just music for music's sake." To listen to clips of Andy's music, you can go to his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Andrew-Kahrs-Music/141300862596486> or click on the link on Ascension's Facebook page.

Rick McKee will continue to serve as host and perform his original songs at the coffee house. Rick is a singer/songwriter, composer, music educator, and multi-instrumentalist from Cartersville.

Admission is free to the community, but all voluntary tips and donations collected will benefit ministries at Church of the Ascension. Donations of non-perishable food contributions are appreciated for the Ascension Food Pantry. There is a critical need for cat and dog food for needy pets. See the Outreach section of the newsletter for specific requests.

Angee McKee would love to have more volunteers to help with coffee house each month. If you'd like to assist in this ministry you may contact her at 770-382-7939 or amckss56@aol.com.

Please join us from 7:00-9:00 PM on Friday, June 10th, in the parish hall. Invite your friends, enjoy some great original music, and help others in our community!

MEN'S BREAKFAST ON SUMMER VACATION

There will not be a men's breakfast event until September. Enjoy the summer and mark your calendars for September.

NEWS FROM YOUR OUTREACH MINISTRY

BANE AND BLESSING YARD SALE

Are ready? It's here! It's time to start dropping off your donations for our annual Bane and Blessing Yard Sale. This is an important event since the monies help support the weekly purchases for the Food Pantry. Please remember that Ascension distributes over 140 bags of food as described below each week. Your generosity will help this continue.



This year is a little different. In an effort to keep the parish hall clear for other events we will be accepting your donations at the apartment building. Please do ***NOT*** bring any items to the church parish hall. Bring any and all items to the parking area in back of the apartment building at 209 West Cherokee Avenue. Chris McAbee and Marcia Humphreys will on site to receive your donations on Saturday morning from 9:00 until 11:00 AM beginning Saturday, June 25th. With the exceptions of July 2nd and September 3rd, since they are holiday weekends, we will be there to take donations every Saturday through September 3rd.

If you absolutely must bring your donations on Sunday please leave them at the back door of the apartment building. Other than baby items we will ***NOT*** take clothing. All items must be clean and ready for sale.

If you have large items and need help transporting them just call Chris McAbee at 678.656.2613 or Marcia Humphreys at 770.387.4471. Our committee is eager to turn your "BANE" into someone else's "BLESSING" for our annual sale to support the food pantry.

To receive a receipt for tax purposes when you drop off your items you must come on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Please remember to ask for your receipt when you drop off your items.

Volunteers are needed to help on Saturdays by receiving donations and pricing items. If you are interested in helping, please call Chris or Marcia.

FOOD PANTRY

For summer we need to add to the usual items we put in the bags that our patrons pick up each week. We need special items for the kids, who will be at home during the summer. Please add to your usual donations: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, and snacks.

If you have motel/hotel size bars of soap, shampoo, lotion, etc. many of our patrons would appreciate them. Actually any type of cleaning products/personal hygiene products would be appreciated especially by those folks striving to get back into the work force and needing that additional lift during the job hunt.

Weekly bags:

- 6 oz. can of tuna, or chicken, or salmon
- 1 can of potatoes or corn
- 1 can of pork and beans
- 1 box of macaroni 'n cheese
- 1 package of Ramen noodles soup

Each client receives two bags.

We would also appreciate donations of dog and cat food.

CHURCH SHOP

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering your time to the Church Shop on Main Street please contact Winnie McGruder or Earline Walpole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spare Change Sunday is June 26th.

Bane and Blessing drop begins June 25th at 9:00 AM. Remember to go to the parking area behind the apartments to drop your items.

~Marcia Humphreys, Vestry Liaison for Outreach

Happy Birthday to...

- 3 Mike Green
- 3 Robert Kennedy
- 6 Richard Lunk
- 6 Keith Martin
- 9 Carrie Rhodes
- 12 Ann Law
- 12 Barbara Scragg
- 18 Florence Stanford
- 20 Dale Yarbrough
- 21 Carl Worley



Happy Anniversary to..

- 1 Kathi and Joe White
- 3 Carol and John Youd
- 3 Dixie and Ed Mullinax
- 8 Angee and Rick McKee
- 12 Marcia and Jim Humphreys
- 12 Francoise and Don Evans
- 17 Becky and Mike Rhodes
- 19 Rebecca and Paul Wilson
- 23 Anne and Jonathan Good
- 25 Kelley and Bill Dial
- 27 Beth and Sam Hood



ACOLYTES COMMISSIONED

Congratulations to Sophia Evans and Emily Butterworth who were pinned on Sunday, May 22nd, upon completing one year



Sophia Evans

of service as acolytes and commissioned as servers. These ladies perform faithfully in a very important ministry. Thank you and congratulations to you both.



Emily Butterworth

WHAT ARE ROGATION DAYS?

By Dan Baker

Rogation Days are set aside to observe the change of seasons, and are tied to the Spring planting of crops. According to the Episcopal Kalendar, they are the four days preceding Ascension Day.

“Rogation” is an English form of the Latin verb “rogare”, meaning “to ask”. Traditionally the purpose of the Rogation Days has been to ask God’s blessing for the agriculture of the Parish community. In modern times, prayers are offered for protection from calamity, to petition for a good and plentiful harvest, and for honorable commerce and industry in the coming year.

The observance of Rogation Days has its origin in the Roman feast “Robigalia”, on which the “heathens held processions and supplications to their gods.” The practice was one of intercession and petition, and although misdirected, the early Church; being in the business of conversion, adapted Robigalia to the worship of our Lord Jesus. By the time of Pope Gregory the Great (540-604) it had already become an ancient tradition.

The observance of Rogation Days came to England via the Norman Conquest, and from the Church of England, to the new world and the Episcopal Church.

The procession would begin at the church with prayer. The congregation would then traverse the boundaries of the Parish, which in those days could be a very large geographic area, often more than could be covered before sundown; hence we have plural Rogation Days. Along the way, the congregation would recite The Great Litany and psalms and sing hymns. At the parish boundary landmarks, the Clergy would offer Prayers, and the elders would take the village boys bodily and bump them up against the boundary stones, or turn them upside down and place their heads upon the landmarks, or the boys may be flogged with willows. This was to ensure that the boys would have a vivid and permanent memory of the boundary marks, and the specific location where these experiences took place. The procession would end back at the church, for a feast.

In those days there were no accurate survey maps. In England the practice became known as the “Beating of the Bounds”; and by this means, corporate memory was passed from one generation to the next. In our own time, due to modern surveying arts, the procession has become entirely ceremonial.

At Ascension, on Rogation Sunday (Easter VI), our tradition is to process around the Church Property reciting the Great Litany, pausing at each property corner to offer prayers to Almighty God for the agriculture, commerce, and industry of our community and our nation. The children still use willows to “beat” the boundary markers, and most any child at Ascension Parish is able to indicate the boundary markers to anyone who may have need to know of our property “Bounds”.

Come and see.

EASTER EGG HUNT ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



TORNADO RIPS THROUGH JOPLIN, MO

A massive tornado on Sunday killed at least 122 people and caused severe damage in Joplin, MO. Please pray for all those affected.

UPDATES FROM THE VESTRY AND STEERING COMMITTEE

Seeking support of the Congregation

The vestry continues to move ahead with plans to build up the kingdom of God here at the Church of the Ascension. We need your help: We need your gifts of time, your gifts of talents, your gifts of treasure. Summer is a hard time for churches because people go away on vacation and forget to keep their pledge payments. Please remember to keep up with your pledge while you are away. Operation of the church continues throughout the summer. Members of Church of the Ascension are very good about keeping their pledges overall and the leadership is grateful for your commitment. For the sake of 'cash flow', however, it helps if you keep up with regular contributions even when you are in the mountains, at the beach, or on an international adventure.

We also need your gifts of time: God has blessed all of us with the gift of time. As the church grows we need more and more people to contribute the building up of God's kingdom through our various ministries. In our busy American culture, we know your time is as important as your treasures. God wants and needs for you to give some of it back for the sake of bringing others to the kingdom of heaven...remember it is near!

We need your gifts of talent: God has blessed you with talent and abilities. They are not simply a result of your gene pool and parenting but given to you for God's purposes. You have been endowed for a holy purpose...for God to work through you and your abilities to love and care for others...to build up the Kingdom of God.

June is a big month for discernment of your gifts. June is the month we recall and celebrate the Ascension of Christ to be with God. June is also the month we recall and celebrate Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us...giving gifts of the spirit to all. What are your gifts? Are you ready and willing to share those gifts as a way of giving God thanks? Are you looking for your God-given purpose in life? Discern your gifts and call Mother Mary or vestry leadership to sign up!

Ministries which are in particular need of your consideration at this time include **Christian Formation (what we used to call Christian Education), Fellowship, and Communication (Trumpet). The Adult Choir is seeking new members as well.**

Christian Formation (formerly Christian Education) seeks all who have gifts of teaching and leading others to teach to a Retreat on July 9. Come share your time and talent as we plan together how Christian Formation will raise up new Christians, followers of Christ, in the months and years to come.

Contact Mother Mary Erickson or Carol Robson.

Fellowship: David Horah resigned his vestry position and liaison position with Fellowship due to his very busy work schedule. We will miss you David, thanks for giving us a try in the midst of your busy schedule. The Vestry will vote in June to fill the remainder of his position. You may also know that Corrine Scott resigned from Fellowship Committee after Easter, having contributed of her time, talent, and treasures to the benefit of us all for a good long time. Thank you again,

Corinne. So you can see our need to build up the Committee of Fellowship is significant. We desire a team who can share the love and the work to meet the needs of a growing community. Come and share your time and talent for building relationships within the kingdom of heaven. Contact Mother Mary Erickson.

Communication: Brenda Worley is a devoted and talented Chief Editor of the Trumpet. Helen Lesser, Parish Administrator gives of her time and talents to get the Trumpet ready for publication and posting on our Website. When time allows Susan McLeod provides time and talent for a final review. The Robson Family, Earline Walpole, Marilyn Greer, and Maggie Martin all help with folding.

The forming "Trumpet Team" needs more help. If you already contribute to the Trumpet, consider coming to a Trumpet Retreat and Planning Meeting on June 15. If you have gifts for writing and communicating, or if you like to sit around a table and give of your folding and sealing talents while enjoying fellowship with others, we need you as well. Please contact Brenda Worley, Helen Lesser, or Mother Erickson if you are interested in the Ministry of Communication.

Choir: There is not a single person in this parish who does not appreciate the Choral Leadership provided at the 11 AM service each Sunday. We give thanks to George and all the devoted members of the Choir. They also seek to have more voices to join them. If you like to sing and seek to give of your talent on Sunday mornings, please contact George Chesnut or any member of the choir.

Mutual Ministry Evaluation of Ministries

Together with our consultant, The Rev. Frank Baltz, the Vestry has begun a new way of leading the church. We are writing goals together, holding ourselves accountable together, and will evaluate our progress together at the end of the year. We have a lot of excitement around the goals and this process of mutual ministry review. It is our hope that this kind of leadership and evaluation will make its way into all the ministries as we plan together our work of building up the kingdom of God, and then evaluating it together...all with God's help of course.

Steering Committee for Buildings and Grounds: Building up the Kingdom with bricks and mortar

Mason Rountree and Jamie Hamilton are co-chairs of this committee. They are working with a committee of devoted members to look at previous plans for building an addition and expanding parking. Excitement builds as we seek to obtain your input, revise previous plan, contact the architect to start moving forward, and demolition of the former Apartment House. Please contact Mason or Jamie for your questions and input.

In closing...

The leadership of Ascension is very aware that these are exciting times for our parish family. We also recognize our limitations. We need God. We need you. Let us worship together in peace and joy each week. Keep yourselves informed about all that is happening here, and get involved in the building up of the Kingdom. It is the way of purpose, the way of transformation, the way of Jesus Christ. Mother Mary Erickson has written this article on behalf of all the Leadership of The Church of the Ascension.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Just a reminder that Christian Education for All Ages takes place each Sunday at 10:00 am.

For Adults:

The Welcome Series is a new class (named for a series of books) for newcomers and cradle Episcopalians alike who want to learn more about our Church and its traditions. Come and learn about our heritage and why we do what we do. With more knowledge about our church and worship we seek to open hearts and minds to God's call within a community of faith.

This class which began a couple months ago to prepare our newest members for reception/confirmation will continue and open up to all who wish to come. During the month of May we will focus on the book titled *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*.

Other books in the series include:

Welcome to Sunday

Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer

Welcome to the Church Year

Welcome to the Bible

Welcome to the Anglican Spiritual Traditions

Come and See! This class will strengthen our community and help all of us to grow spiritually.

Teachers: The Rev. Mary K. Erickson and Kathi White.

Coming Soon:

A summertime intergenerational music class during the Christian Ed Hour.

Be sure to check out the Christian Education bulletin board, located across from the restrooms, for any sign-up sheets, announcements, or volunteer opportunities. As always, if you have any ideas, questions, or if you just want to learn more about what we are trying to build, please contact Carol Robson at 678-757-1014 or mcssrobson@comcast.net.

Homemade Happy Meals

The 3rd-5th grade Christian Education class is creating 'Handmade Happy Meal' bags for our local Women's shelter. We have decorated a number of plain brown lunch bags and would like to fill them with treats, toys, etc. We would love donations of store-packaged treats like cookies, popcorn, granola bars, crackers, and dried fruit snacks. In addition, small games, toys, or books would be an added treat! Collection Boxes are located in the Parish Hall and by the Christian Education Bulletin Board. The students and Christian Ed thank you!

REMINDER – IF YOU ARE ON THE ROTA

Ushers are urged to be at the door of the church to welcome people by 20 minutes before the beginning of the liturgy and Acolytes and LEMs should be vested 10 minutes before the liturgy. If you cannot serve when scheduled, please call someone to substitute for you and call the parish office so that we may change the bulletin; please contact Susan McLeod if you wish to be added to or taken off the Rota.

CONGRATS TO NEW DAUGHTER

Congratulations to Earline Walpole who was admitted to Ascension's Order of the Daughters of the King on Sunday, May 22nd. Earline is committed to pray and service as are the other Daughters. Thank you and congratulations, Earline.

VBS 2011

This year VBS is schedule for the week of June 13-17 and our theme is "Come and See ... Who We Are". Sign-up sheets for attendance and volunteer opportunities are posted on the Christian Education Bulletin Board (located across from the restrooms). For additional information, please feel free to contact Carol Robson at 678-757-1014 or mcssrobson@comcast.net.

We are looking forward to a great week and hope to see you all there!

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

05/23/11

Our financial results for the month of April were again below expectations, for the third consecutive month, primarily due to pledge payments falling short of budget, for the third consecutive month. Some notes on the results:

Pledge receipts fell short of budget by \$2,598 for the month. The year-to-date shortfall for 3 months is \$7,598.

Expenses were under budget by \$965. Year-to-date expenses are under budget by \$6,016.

There was a net loss for the month of \$1,329. The year-to-date net loss is \$2,818.

Our unrestricted cash balance at the end of the month was \$1,391.73 and our accounts payable were \$5,807.16.

We were again unable to deposit any funds into the Vestry restricted savings account this month due to the current cash position. The current balance of that "rainy day" savings is \$500.

Mal Underwood, Chair

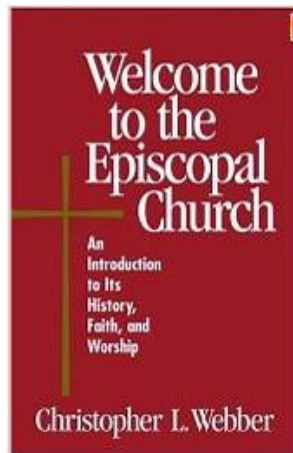
Finance Committee

LEARN MORE ABOUT SEPTEMBER TOUR OF SCOTLAND

A tour of Scotland Sept. 16-24 will be sponsored by the Church of Our Saviour, Atlanta, and will be led by the Rev. John Bolton, priest in charge. Cost is just under \$1,700 plus airfare. Interested people are invited to a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. June 12. Bolton was raised in Scotland and was ordained a priest at St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, one of the stops on the tour. Information: LeAnne Lemmond, 404-538-1581, or Roslynn Hight, 404-324-4033.

RETREAT FOR VETERANS ON SPIRITUAL HEALING

A retreat on spiritual healing for veterans and their spouses will be offered June 6-9 at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers. It will be led by HealingVeterans.org, a ministry founded by a Vietnam veteran. Information: Andy Farris, 770-597-5536 or andyfarris@att.net



THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

By Anne Kitch, May 24, 2011

[Diocese of Bethlehem]

I sit across the lunch table from my friend as we pray over richly fragrant beef-with-broccoli. It occurs to me as I offer thanks for our food and friendship that she and I have been praying over restaurant lunches together for years. Ten, 11, 12 years ago such mealtime graces included our children.

Back then, we would rally the rowdy 2- and 4-year-old crowd around a table in a local diner. Holding hands in the midst of paper napkins, toys, and lidded cups, we would offer prayer while attempting to keep control of small hands that would inevitably spill something before lunch was over; most likely red juice all over a yellow sundress.

Then, we bowed our heads over assorted kiddie platters—“not bowls of steaming rice and cups of hot green tea served with cloth napkins on the elegant table at which we now sit. Our lunchtime repast has become more sophisticated. Our friendship, too, has matured and it is for this that I give thanks.

Lately I have been contemplating the vocation of friendship. What does it look like, to think of a friendship as a calling? As a gift? Can our friendships teach us about love?

When Paul writes to the people in Corinth, “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” a passage most often associated with weddings, he is not talking about romantic love. Rather, he is talking about how we are the body of Christ and the people of God. The love that Paul invokes as patient and kind, reflects the very person of Christ. It is Christ who is never envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

So we too, as followers of Christ, strive to embody these values in the way we treat one another. The love we exhibit toward anyone, if it is Christlike, does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful and does not rejoice in wrongdoing. Friendship offers us a context in which we not only can experience the love of another, but also expand our capacity to learn and grow in love.

In his book “Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness,” Thomas Breidenthal talks about the intentional household affording us the opportunity to practice loving our neighbor as ourselves. He suggests embracing householding “as a way of life in which we can learn and practice Christlike familiarity with a few people, in preparation for the boundless familiarity that awaits us at the end of time.” Our friendships can also offer us the chance to exercise Christian virtues.

We often become friends with another person because of shared values and circumstances. We are passionate about a particular kind of work, enjoy the same sport, or belong to the same club. Or, we become friends with someone unexpected because we are thrown together; our children go to the same school or our spouses work in the same office, or we live next to one another. Having become friends, we are sometimes afforded the opportunity to deepen the relationship into an intentional companionship.

In intentional friendships, we move beyond fostering a friendship based mostly on pleasant feelings and shared interests, to one in which we work as partners to support and nurture one another regardless of how we feel about one another on any given day. We can recognize our friend as God’s beloved, and then follow Paul’s mandate: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12) In a friendship, we can practice the disciplines of respect and forgiveness, and, in turn, experience what it is like to be respected and forgiven.

Like any Christian practice, living into a vocation of friendship takes intentionality. As I take a personal inventory, I believe some of my friendships have matured in spite of my negligence. What I hope as I move along in my life, is not to overlook gifts of amity. Whether as a casual acquaintance, or a member of a group gathered for a time and a task, or a work colleague, the companionship of another human being is precious.

-- The Rev. Canon Anne Kitch is canon for formation of Christian faith in the Diocese of Bethlehem. This column appears in the June 2011 issue of *Diocesan Life*.



ASCENSION EVE SERVICE – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

The **Feast of the Ascension** is one of the great feasts in the Christian liturgical calendar, and commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day from Easter day.

We will celebrate on Ascension Eve with music and Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m.

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy. For the LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth. He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram’s-horn. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill. God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne. The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted.

- Psalm 47

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— COMMENT —

THE CHURCH FOR SINFUL ADDICTS

By Giles Fraser writing in the Church Times

I met a man the other day who had spent 20 years as a heroin addict. He is now the CEO of a large and well-known company, and married with children. The only suggestion of previous addiction was the can of Coke in his hand as the rest of us drank wine. He has been clean for nearly 25 years, but still goes to Narcotics Anonymous (NA) every week.

I am on day four of giving up smoking, again. It's not the same as a heroin habit, I know. But it is interesting how addiction stays with you. I gave up smoking several years ago, and I really thought I had cracked it. But, one night last December, I just had the one, and then was back on 20 a day within a week. It was madness. Was it weakness of will? That, of course, is a common explanation of addiction. But my new friend understood it completely differently. Addicts actually have incredibly strong wills, he argued — in fact, too strong. How else can they resist the pressure of friends and family constantly calling on them to quit? No, the addict's will is so strong that he or she is endlessly inventive to justify a reason for the next fix; endlessly devious in finding new opportunities for a puff or a line.

This is why, my friend believes, the only way to recover fully is to hand your will over to others — or, as a Christian might put it, to an Other. Thus, for instance, if he was planning to go on a trip, he would ask those at his NA meeting whether they thought it was a good idea. They would see the risks, understand the temptations, and smell out the bogus justifications that we use to return to our drug. If they said no, he wouldn't go on the trip.

I have long felt that groups such as Narcotics Anonymous offer a model for a persuasive ecclesiology. Human beings are sinful creatures. Sin is an addiction, even for those who have been clean for years. A good church is a place where you can have the trust to hand your will over to others — as well as to an Other. A good church is a place where we all acknowledge our addiction, and can help each other with honesty and fellow-feeling. This is why church can be so easily corrupted by respectability, by the desire to pretend and to tut-tut.

I was having a fag outside the new Bishop of Ely's enthronement the other day. Another cleric saw me, and screwed up his face in obvious disapproval. If my ecclesiology has some merit, then that face is how the Church dies. Snooty respectability kills it by acting as if we, as church, have been cured of our addiction. No: what we need to do is to support each other in our battle against sin, not to pretend that we are somehow beyond it.

The Reverend Dr Giles Fraser is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, England.



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.

The Rev. Mary K. Erickson, Rector
George Chesnut, Organist and Choirmaster
Nancy Haight, Vestry Clerk

John Youd, Senior Warden, Stewardship
Carol Robson, Junior Warden, Christian Ed.
Marcia Humphreys, Vestry Member, Outreach
Keith Martin, Vestry Member, Bldgs. & Grounds

Angee McKee, Vestry Member, Liturgy & Worship
Nancy Miller, Vestry Member, Finance
Mason Rountree, Vestry Member, Evangelism
Earline Walpole, Vestry Member, Pastoral Care

Brenda Worley, Trumpet Editor available at carl46@bellsouth.net

Trumpet Deadline is the 15th of each month.